



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2262

child care assistance

Prime Sponsor: Representative Brophy McGee, LD 28

DP Committee on Children and Family Affairs

DP Committee on Appropriations

DP Caucus and COW

X As Transmitted to the Governor

OVERVIEW

HB 2262 requires the Department of Economic Security (DES) to provide child care assistance to eligible families for a certain period of time once the family income is greater than 165% of the federal poverty level, but less than 85% of the state median income.

PROVISIONS

1. Requires DES to provide child care assistance to eligible families for a period of time to be specified in rule once the family income exceeds 165% of the federal poverty level, but remains below 85% of the state median income, if the family is:
 - a. Transitioning off of cash assistance; or
 - b. Diverted from cash assistance;
2. Allows DES to continue to provide child care assistance to families whose income is greater than 165% of the federal poverty level, but less than 85% of the state median income for a period of time to be specified in rule, if the family is:
 - a. Below 165% of the federal poverty line at the time of application and requires the assistance in order to accept or maintain employment; or
 - b. Less than 165% of the federal poverty level at the time of application and is unable to provide child care for a portion of the day due to a crisis situation of domestic violence or homelessness, or a physical, mental, emotional or medical condition, participating in drug treatment or drug rehabilitation program or court ordered community restitution.
3. Prohibits DES from reviewing a case to evaluate eligibility for child care assistance more than once a year.
4. States that if the family income exceeds 85% of the state median income, child care assistance must cease upon notification by DES.
5. Allows DES to pay different levels of child care assistance depending on a state-approved quality indicator.
6. Contains an effective date of September 1, 2016.
7. Makes technical changes.

CURRENT LAW

[A.R.S. § 46-803](#) requires DES to provide child care assistance to eligible families for up to 24 months after their cash assistance case closure. The child care assistance is required to cease

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once the family income exceeds 165% of the federal poverty level, as determined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. [A.R.S. § 46-805](#) permits DES to pay different levels of child care assistance depending on a number of criteria.

[A.R.S. § 46-101](#) defines *cash assistance* as temporary assistance for needy families paid to a recipient for the purpose of meeting basic living expenses.